

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 VOE-00 SY-05 /017 W

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R 090015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7638

UNCLAS MEXICO 3977

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, ASFP, MX

SUBJ: AUTHORIZATION FOR USE NIV PLATES

REF: DEPT.'S A-3374 OF 4/25/75 AND MEXICO'S 7741 OF 9/11/74

FOR SCA ADMINISTRATOR WALENTYNOWICZ FROM AMB. JOVA

1. AS WE ENDEAVOR TO COPE WITH SPRINGTIME SURGE IN REQUESTS FOR VISAS, WE ARE NOT ONLY HANDICAPPED BY STAFF SHORTAGES AS REFLECTED IN OUR FY 75 CONSULAR PACKAGE BUT BY TEMPORARY VACANCIES IN SIX CONSULAR OFFICER POSITIONS. GIVEN THIS DILEMMA, I HAVE DETAILED SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OFFICERS TO WORK PART-TIME ON VISITOR VISA LINE, AND I HAVE DESIGNATED TWO OTHER OFFICERS TO WORK EACH AFTERNOON SIGNING NIV'S. WHILE THESE STOPGAP MEASURES ARE HELPFUL IN STAVING OFF CRISIS, THEY CANNOT BE PROLONGED EXCEPT AT THE SACRIFICE OF OTHER SUBSTANTIVE OPERATIONS. FACED WITH THIS DIFFICULT AND GROWING PROBLEM, I MUST LOOK TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR EVENTUAL INCREASES IN PERSONNEL RESOURCES AND FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT NEW VISA PROCESSING METHODS WHICH WILL ENABLE PRESENT STAFF TO CARRY EVEN HEAVIER LOAD.

2. THIS LATTER OBJECTIVE CAN BE ACHIEVED IN PART BY USING VISA MACHINE PLATES, ONE TO INSERT "THE BEARER" ON THE VISA IN LIEU OF WRITING BY HAND NAME OF EACH APPLICANT, AND THE SECOND TO AFFIX AN ISSUING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE MECHANICALLY RATHER THAN MANUALLY. THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT BOTH IN PROCESSING

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CURRENT DAILY WORKLOAD OF 800 NIV'S AS WELL AS IN

HANDLING EVENTUAL SUMMER-PEAK WORKLOAD OF 1600 VISAS
DAILY.

3. I UNDERSTAND AN EARLIER EMBASSY REQUEST FOR
AUTHORIZATION TO USE THESE PLATES WAS DENIED BECAUSE
FRAUD POSSIBILITIES IN MEXICO WERE THOUGHT TO BE
EXCESSIVE. WITH THE ARRIVAL LATER THIS MONTH OF
FREDERICK SMITH TO HEAD OUR CONSULAR PROGRAM, AND
WITH THE ASSURED PRESENCE OF DEEPLY EXPERIENCED VISA
OFFICER DONALD LAUTZ, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN
DEVISE CONTROLS WHICH WILL PROVIDE FRAUD SAFEGUARDS.
GIVEN THIS CONVICTION, I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF
YOU WOULD URGENTLY RECONSIDER THIS PROBLEM AND FIND IT
POSSIBLE TO AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY AT MEXICO CITY TO
BEGIN USING REVISED NIV FORMAT WITH FACSIMILATE
SIGNATURE PLATE PROCEDURE.
JOVA

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